

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



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**Wood stove retailer gets 33-month sentence, makes \$202,706 restitution for sales tax theft, clean air violations**

**SEATTLE**, Wash., July 11, 2002 — A former wood stove retailer was sentenced to 33 months in prison today for stealing sales taxes, filing false state tax returns, and violating clean air laws.

Richard A. McFadden, 57, was sentenced by King County Superior Court Judge Robert Alsdorf after McFadden paid \$202,706 in restitution for sales taxes he had collected from customers but never remitted to the state.

McFadden pled guilty last November to the tax charges and illegally selling used, uncertified wood stoves that he took in on trade. Sentencing was delayed until now so McFadden could raise the restitution funds by selling his home.

McFadden had run a Stove Country retail outlet in Auburn. He sold the business and the current owners were not involved in any of the charges.

The case was prosecuted by the Financial Crimes Unit of the Washington State Attorney General's Office, in cooperation with the King County Prosecutor's Office, on behalf of the state departments of Revenue and Ecology.

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